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HONOLULU, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1894.

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Life in the Soil.

Guilty or not Guilty.

Cane Diseases in N. S. Wales.

Sugar Cane in California.

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BEET SUGAR MEN PROTEST.

Seeking Their Redress from the Government.

PROTEST AGAINST THE TARIFF LAW.

Legal Measures to be Taken to Enforce the Bounty Act—Millions Involved—Beet Sugar Factories in Nebraska Threatened With Utter Annihilation.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 31.—The passage of the tariff bill promises to interfere considerably with the production of beet sugar in California. On last Tuesday word was received from the Secretary of the Treasury by Internal Revenue Collector Welburn to recall the inspectors stationed at the various beet sugar manufacturing plants. This means that the bounty of 2 cents a pound on beet sugar has ceased, as the Wilson bill intended that it should, but the manufacturers of beet sugar do not propose to surrender without a fight, and the United States will find itself with a big legal fight on its hands, or Congress will be asked to remunerate the sugar men for the money the latter will lose by the operation of the Wilson law. There are six beet-sugar manufacturing plants in the United States—one in Lehigh, Utah, one in Norfolk, one in Grand Island, Neb., and three in California. The three companies in this State have engaged legal advice, and Collector Welburn, yesterday, received three protests against the removal of the inspectors.

The three companies in California are the Western Sugar Refinery, of which J. D. Spreckels and brother are at the head; the Alameda Sugar Company, of which John L. Howard is president, and the Chino Valley Beet-Sugar Company, which is controlled by the Oxnard Brothers. Between the three companies there is invested over \$2,000,000. The Alameda company is the only one of the trio which turns out refined sugar, the other companies shipping their raw sugar to this city to be refined. The bounty on refined sugar was 2 cents a pound, and on the raw sugar was 80 and under 90 per cent. 1 1/2 cents a pound.

It was stated yesterday by several sugar men that the protest was merely the commencement of proceedings against the Government, and that it meant much to California. Collector Welburn said that his action in the matter would end with the forwarding of the protest of the sugar men to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue at Washington.

"The sugar men," said the Collector, "think that they have a contract with the Government which is binding on the latter, and it does seem that they had some foundation to their case. Licenses have been issued by the Government for them to operate for a year, and they are just about to start in grinding beets. On the other hand it is maintained that the action of Congress annulled such a contract. It issued the licenses as they were called for, because at the time the bounty law was still in force."

John D. Spreckels, who is at the head of the Western Sugar Refinery, said that the Government must be held responsible for its acts just as a private individual. "The law was passed in 1890," he said, "encouraging the production of beet sugar by giving a bounty of 2 per cent a pound from the Government, and under such guarantee we went ahead with the business, putting up an expensive plant at Watsonville. In addition to this we had to run a railroad from Watsonville to Salinas. We have invested altogether nearly \$1,000,000, and have only been in operation three years. As early as last February we had to make our contracts with the Government for beets, knowing nothing of the coming legislation. Last year our output was 7770 tons, and this year we expect to produce between 11,000 and 12,000 tons. We are licensed to produce beet sugar at 2 cents a pound duty, yet the Government steps in now and says that we are not to receive that bounty, and it has removed its inspectors, who were to keep track of the output. Our first step is to try and have those inspectors returned.

"If this is not done we will take legal proceedings. Just how the latter will be conducted we do not exactly know. We may be allowed to enter suit against the United States in the Court of Claims, or it may be necessary to enact special legislation in Congress."

Another beet-sugar man said that the passage of the Wilson bill tended to destroy one of the greatest growing industries of California. "If they had done as they started to do at first," said he, "that is, to remove the bounty by degrees, one-quarter of a cent a year for eight years, there would have been no complaint. At the end of eight years the entire bounty would have been done away with. At the end of that time, too, the manufacture of beet sugar would be flourishing as one of the greatest industries of the State. We will go right on with the work, however, for our contracts for beets have all been made, and the grinding is now about to commence. We think that the passage of the bounty law is as binding on the

United States as any contract which was ever made. It guaranteed 2 cents a pound on all sugar produced for fifteen years, and if the Government now seeks to abrogate its own contract, what protection has its citizens? We propose to try to enforce the law for the full term of fifteen years."

Direct Effect of the Tariff.

OMAHA (Neb.), Aug. 30.—The beet sugar industry of Nebraska, in which several million dollars have been invested and numerous big factories built, is threatened with extermination by the new tariff law. This is the declaration of James Hamilton, Secretary of the Oxnard Company, which has several factories here. He returned